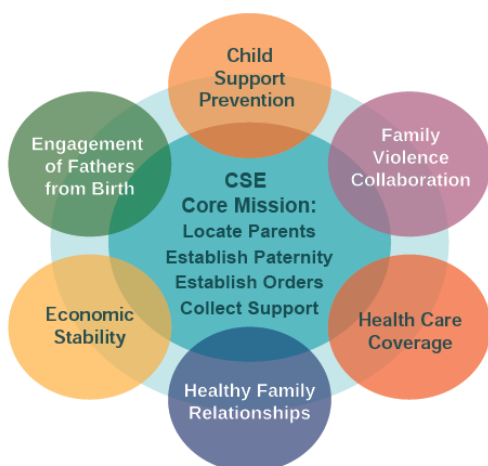


Greetings!

Thank you for the time and effort you spent helping the Division of Child Support (DCS) create a new strategic plan and the Tribal Relations Team (TRT) create a business plan. We appreciate your responses and comments and are using them to strengthen our program and advance DCS's mission "We provide child support and revenue recovery services that lead to economic stability and financial self-sufficiency for individuals, families and communities". More about TRT's business plan, initiatives and strategies will be coming soon.

When surveying Tribes about DCS services, one Tribe asked what DCS is doing to support OCSE's *Family-Centered Innovations to Improve Child Support Outcomes* (see the below OCSE Bubble Chart).



[OCSE Fact Sheet: Promoting Child Well-Being & Family Self-Sufficiency.](#)

DCS has been working on a number of projects to promote Engagement of Fathers, Economic Stability, Healthy Family Relationships, Health Care Coverage, Family Violence Collaboration, and Child Support Prevention.

Below are some details about these projects. If you would like more information on any of them, please let us know. We also know that many of you are working on family-centered innovations and services. If you have ideas on how we can better partner or collaborate together to improve services to children and families, please let us know.

- **Access and Visitation Grant:** This is a Federal grant program where funds are used to provide mediation and visitation enforcement services, which are contracted to regional services providers in six locations throughout the state: Bellingham, Olympia, Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver, and Yakima.
- **Community Partnership for Transition Services (CPTS):** This program started in King County with the Seattle Field Office. Their effort is to reach out to those re-entering the community from incarceration. The program has now expanded within the state greatly the past two years. DCS maintains close connection with various service providers to make sure child support barriers are not in the way of offenders re-entering society. They focus on helping with employment and training, housing, addiction support, etc.

- DCS Alternative Solutions Program:** In May 2013, DCS created the Alternative Solutions Program. The Alternative Solutions Program is a new initiative that addresses a perceived gap in service. While the majority of non-custodial parents (NCPs) pay their child support, some face difficulties in continuously meeting their financial obligations. Obstacles such as unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, prisoner transition, and addiction are not currently addressed by DCS. The Alternative Solutions Program hopes to fill this gap by connecting NCPs with governmental and community organizations aimed at increasing their employability, improving overall collections, and ultimately creating better lives for families. The Alternative Solutions Program is currently working on developing their infrastructure, collating information, coordinating efforts throughout DCS, and developing relationships with the community, our partners, and our stakeholders. Look for exciting initiatives to come from the Alternative Solutions Program soon.
- Divine Alternative for Dads Services (DADS):** This community based organization has been very closely linked with Seattle DCS for over ten years. This close partnership between the Seattle Field Office and DADS works to help men address their child support obligation, heal relationships between the parents and kids, and work on visitation and responsible parenting issues. They are recognized as a community leader in turning lives around in the Seattle area. They have served almost 3000 men in the past ten plus years, 90% of whom have a child support case.
- Early Intervention – A Department of Corrections (DOC) and DCS Collaboration:** DCS is beginning a project to better serve NCPs who become incarcerated in the Washington DOC system. The objective is to identify NCPs when they first enter the DOC system and review their child support obligations for potential modification. The long term goal is to have child support obligations adjusted early on to correctly reflect the NCP's current situation. NCPs will have an appropriate child support obligation when their incarceration ends, reducing the back child support accrued during incarceration, and increasing the potential for personal and family stability in the future.
- Employer Pipeline:** In 2013, ESA began the "Employment Pipeline", seeking employers to create job opportunities for DSHS clients trying to transition off assistance, attain financial independence, and better support their families. ESA is currently working to identify employers in many different lines of business who are willing to work with WorkFirst and non-custodial clients to offer meaningful long term employment opportunities. ESA is designing a program to provide basic training and skills development to aid in clients retaining long term employment.
- KCPA and Drug Court Connection:** As an outshoot of the connections made and conversation held at Project Get Connected, KCPA now interfaces with individuals going through Drug Court more closely and in a much more supportive way.
- Lower Columbia Community Action Program (LCCAP):** This is a partnership in Southwest Washington that was brought about through the Building Assets for Fathers and Families (BAFF) grant over the past three years. Through this partnership, LCCAP and the Vancouver Field Office have helped many people get on their feet with employment, training, and housing. Support Enforcement Officers refer non-custodial parents to LCCAP and work with LCCAP to link them up with services. <http://www.lowercolumbiacap.org/>

- **Northwest Justice Project (NJP) and the Veterans Administration (VA):** This started as one of nine pilot sites around the country to focus on child support issues that homeless veterans face. This Seattle initiative started over three years ago. Positive results have driven expansion of this program this year to a broader statewide legal services effort. A strong collaboration between DCS and NJP has led to case collaboration and removal of child support barriers that were keeping NCPs homeless.
- **Participation at Veteran Stand Downs:** DCS staff across the state are actively participating in Veteran Stand Downs. These are big community events held periodically to focus on providing resources to homeless vets. These events help connect veteran NCPs who may be avoiding child support and provide them with information, tools, and resources to remove child support barriers.
- **Project Get Connected:** This Region 10 OCSE initiative started over five years ago and brought together community partners and child support to better collaborate and help NCPs economic stabilization by job referrals, training and other support. The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPA) and the public defender's office are close partners with this work. After five years, OCSE ended the initiative and DCS is picking up on this type of work through the Alternative Solution Program now.
- **Project Homeless Connect:** Project Homeless Connect is an initiative to end homelessness. Events are held around Pierce County and bring together a wide array of services for the homeless from haircuts, to dental services, to DSHS programs. The Tacoma field office regularly sends staff to these events to reach out to homeless NCPs and CPs to work through child support issues and remove child support barriers.
- **Spokane Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP):** Like LCCAP, SNAP was an important partner in WA's BAFF grant exploratory work. A strong tie was built over the past three years between SNAP and the Spokane Field Office. SNAP is a great community partner that helps people with a wide variety of needs and services. Now child support awareness and issue resolution is part of their toolbox of services too. <http://www.snapwa.org/index.php>